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terrorism is a history of a series of tragedies, of a hopeless struggle against overwhelming odds. The very method of violence was the means of its own destruction. The acts of the terrorist proceeded from a philosophy of despair. Modern socialism arose partly as a reaction against just such methods as these. Mr. Hunter's history of socialism is the history of a movement that is based upon an unlimited faith in democracy; it is the history of a party which is gaining confidence in the wisdom of its course, and which already sees visions of ultimate victory. As socialism has thus gained ground, the tenets of the older terrorism have fallen into disrepute. The philosophy of violence, however, has not yet run its course. It has reappeared in the guise of industrial unionism and syndicalism, and it is now one of the chief influences which retard the advance of the labor movement. The enemies of the labor movement, the oldest anarchists, have found in it a means of discrediting the labor party. They have hired private detectives to instigate acts of violence, and they have sought to attribute the blame for such acts of lawlessness to the theories of the labor movement.

This book affords a new insight into several historic conflicts between laborers and their employers. Mr. Hunter presents the workingman's viewpoint from the angle of a Marxian socialist, yet his treatment of Bakounin and the terrorists is marked by its frank and sympathetic tone. The earnestness and sincerity of his manner carry enthusiasm for his cause.

Earth Hunger and Other Essays. By WILLIAM G. SUMNER. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1913. 8vo, pp. xii+377. \$2.25 net.

These essays well reveal the political and social philosophy of Professor Sumner. In a clear and forceful voice he calls for the elimination of a priori dogma from social investigation. Liberty is not a natural right, but the result of history and law. There is no boon of nature: all the blessings we enjoy are the products of toil, self-denial, and study.

He is an economic optimist. In capital he sees the mainspring of progress, and in the bank depositor the hero of civilization. But he is also a political pessimist. Democracy is weak; its efforts to control industry will be overpowered by the superior organization of plutocracy, and our institutions will be turned into an oligarchy. By our laws to equalize the distribution of wealth we shall abolish responsibility and put a premium on idleness and incontinence. Professor Sumner seems to fear that we may vote away our liberty by a plebiscite.

These cardinal ideas, reiterated in essay after essay, are prone to wear upon the patience of his readers. No doubt also there are unjustifiable extremes in both pessimism and optimism. Yet the book is wholesome reading and might prevent one from being carried thoughtlessly away on the stream of present tendency.